

THE THEATER ITSELF

After the finishing of the excavation, O. B. Wilson took charge of the building of the theater. On December 20, 1915, the basement floor was laid, and Mr. Wilson has been "on the job" ever since. The basement is two and a half feet deep, and has a concrete floor. There is an entrance from the decline, on Cherry street and a chute through which the trunks are taken from the sidewalk.

There are six dressing rooms, each about 10 by 12 feet, with running water and an abundant number of lights in each one. These are in the basement, and as nearly fire-proof as can be made. The rooms are arranged in two rows, with a hall between; the women having one side and the men the other.

Through the entrance down the slope, the orchestra and the performers will make their entrance, and it is here that the boys will line up to get a look at the "dancing beauties." The fact that all the work will be done in the basement, and not behind the stage will insure the quiet that is always lacking in the smaller theaters.

Hall Theater Stage Is One of Best in State

The stage is one of the largest and best equipped in the state. The floor is solid, with traps, and the entrances are large and commodious. It is 26 by 68 feet, and from the floor to the flies, the distance is 46 feet. The scenery is stored in the rear, and the loft is large enough to provide for any extensive setting.

Paul Hourigan, for years stage-manager at the Star Theater will have charge of the stage at the new theater. Hourigan is known for his accommodations to every vaudeville act that ever came to this city. He is one stage man that everyone likes, and even the "stage-door Johnnies" have nothing against him. He has moved his "office" to the new building, and is prepared to "put on" the opening show. The scenery is all handled by him, as he knows what he wants to do with it, and what care should be taken of the scenery.

Made a Special Trip To Get the Picture Screen

The scenery was obtained at a cost of \$2,500, and was painted especially for this theater. The curtain is one of the best that could be had, and the displays were painted by an expert in this line.

The scenery has all arrived, but it is the intention of the management to add to this amount from time to time, and keep everything in good shape. The "drops" are artistic, and of the latest style, and it will be an up-to-date stage and setting that the audience will see when the curtain goes up for the opening night.

The picture curtain was a large item of cost, and it has been well stretched, so the picture, if not good, will not be the fault of the curtain. Mr. Woods made a special trip for the purchase of this curtain, and it is his belief that he has one of the best that was ever produced.

The orchestra pit is entered from the basement, and is large enough for a twenty-piece orchestra. The pit is one foot deep and is concrete.

There are a row of lights installed that promises every man all the light that is needed in the orchestra, and these are shaded with the latest orchestra rack shade. The acoustics of the building will be a big factor in the production of the music, but the orchestra will have a modern and roomy "pit" in which to work.

The theater will open with a six-piece orchestra, which has been rehearsing for one week under Prof. Jack Whitney, who will have charge of the music. A music-cabinet is one of the modern installments, and the entire library will be at the command of the director at any time. The "pit" is considered very shallow, but on account of the high stage, a deeper one is not necessary, and an orchestra can work to better advantage.

Mushrooms Are a Part of the Heating System

There will be many persons who will wonder what the little caps are under the seats. These are called "mushrooms," and are entrances to allow air to come into the theater. They are a part of the new heating and cooling system, and are placed over the entire building.

The slope of the downstairs floor is enough to enable the rear of the stage to be seen from the back of the house. One of the best features in the marking of seats, is a metal figure on each row, that will make the ushering more rapid and accurate. As these are fastened in the seats, they will not be carried away by "souvenir hunters."

The floor of the downstairs section is of concrete, and there are three sets of seats—a large middle section, and two side sections. The center aisles are very large, and the side aisles are large enough to accommodate the crowd at any time. The capacity of the downstairs is 785.

The balcony has a seating capacity of 430, exclusive of the boxes. There are 7 boxes and these will seat 72 persons. The boxes are in the front part of the balcony, and the incline of the floor enables everyone to see from the back.

Two Exits in Balcony, Nine in the Auditorium.

There are nine exits in the theater, two from the balcony, and seven from the main auditorium. The entrance and exit from the stage is made by way of the decline, and all trunks are handled through a chute that is

built under the sidewalk. The doors opening on the side will be used only in case of an emergency.

At a cost of \$14.50 each, every door has been provided with a panic lock. These lock automatically, and will open when pushed upon. In case of a crowd or panic, there is no danger that they will not open, as the pressure of the crowd will work the combination.

These locks have been approved by all insurance men and fire experts, and it is much to the credit of the management to provide this safety for the public. This is one of the first things considered in respect to a theater, for a sufficient number of exits are required by the authorities to handle the crowds, in case of panic or fire.

The balcony exits are straight from the balcony to the street, and the entrance is made through the main entrance, and up a flight of stairs at either side of the theater.

To Use Inside Window For General Ticket Sale.

The box-office is at the right of the entrance, and the inside window will be used for the general ticket sale. When there are reservations to be made, it is the present intention to use the outside window for this purpose. Entrance is made through the first door off the office, and patrons are turned either to the right or the left for the balcony. The office of the management is at the left of the main entrance.

Of the equipment, the most worthy of mention is the Studefer heating plant, installed at a cost of \$6,500. This plant heats the house and cools it as desired. Air is taken in from the outside by a chute. In the winter, the air passes over a set of coils which heats it to a temperature of 80 degrees. Then this air is washed, and passed over another set of coils, which heats it to a temperature of 180 degrees. This air is cooled in a large vat, and then forced into the holes, or mushrooms in the floor at a temperature of 75 to 78 degrees. There are 350 six-inch mushrooms distributed over the theater. They are placed out of the way under the seats.

4 Large Air Exits At Top of Theater.

The air rises to the top of the theater, and here there are four large exits, through which the air is pulled by a large fan, and forced to the outside.

In warm weather the same process is used, except that the air is cooled by frosted pipes, washed, and sent into the mushrooms. This is one of the most extensive and complete systems ever invented, and has proved very successful in many of the large theaters.

In addition to this system, there are nine high windows for ventilation on

each side of the house, but for the heating and cooling system to work properly, these will be closed.

Two new Simplex motion picture machines have been installed, and direct current will be used. The "cage" is fire-proof and isolated. Two operators will be used.

The theater will give employment to eighteen men. There will be two ticket sellers, when reserved seats are sold, one door man, four ushers, two operators, six musicians, and three stage men. The majority of these will be from the Star, and will have the experience needed, and the others will be local persons.

The interior decorations will not be made until later. This is because of the fact that the walls, made of

cement plastering are treated with a chemical. While this chemical it still present, the dye in the paint and decorations will not take hold properly.

When this is thoroughly dry, and the chemical has disappeared, the dye can be applied.

Another reason, and a greater one, is the fact that dye is scarce. On account of the present war, foreign factories have closed down, and no one in this country, as yet, has had the nerve to start a plant. It would take three millions of dollars to build a plant, and the chance would be taken of the war coming to an end, and the plant put out of business by foreign competition.

The state law of Missouri provides that all theater floors and balconies

be capable of supporting 60 pounds of live weight to the square foot.

In the new Hall Theater this has been increased to 90 pounds in the down stairs, and 125 in the balcony. The management could have saved a nice sum of money, and fully complied with the law, but they have taken this extra precaution at a great outlay of money to insure the safety of the patrons. There is no other building in the state, and few in the United States that have this high percentage of carrying weight in the floors, according to Contractor Felty.

Send all your local and society news to the Missourian. Telephone 55.

Put a want ad in the Missourian.

We Installed the VENTILATING SYSTEM, TILE ROOFING and TIN WORK

of the New Hall Theatre.

Installing high class Schill furnaces, slate and tile roofing and tin work is our specialty.

Investigate these perfect furnaces if you are contemplating putting in a furnace this fall.

R. W. WRIGHT

Phone 593

911 Cherry

WHEN A BIG COMPANY SEEKS A BIG CONTRACT THAT'S WHERE

BOONE COUNTY LUMBER CO.

COLUMBIA, MO.

IS OF GREATEST SERVICE

THE NEW HALL THEATRE

USED THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS FROM THIS COMPANY

☐ All laths for the thousands of yards of plaster work for interior finishing are clear, yellow pine from the big stock in our yards on the M. K. & T. track.

☐ All cement work in foundations and basement is Iola-Portland from our stock and

☐ All plaster material is Eldorado Natural Cement Plaster from our stock.

Whether it's a big job or a little job, you'll always be glad you selected

The Boone County Lumber Co.

408-10 BROADWAY. PHONE 194

(Yards on our own M. K. & T. sidetracks save you money in hauling and drayage.)